

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 **Claim 1 (Currently amended):** A screen printing method
2 for printing paste on a work via pattern holes formed on
3 the a mask plate, comprising:
4 a mask attachment step in which said work is brought
5 into contact with the lower surface of said mask plate;
6 a mask pressure step in which said work is raised
7 further by a predetermined margin from a normal height
8 position of a lower surface of the mask plate so that said
9 contact between the work and the mask plate is in a state
10 under pressure from below;
11 a squeegeeing step in which a squeegee is moved on the
12 mask plate in the mask attachment state thereby to filling
13 paste into said pattern holes; and
14 a plate separating step in which the work is separated
15 from the mask plate stepwise by a plate separating
16 operation of repeating plural times an acceleration and
17 deceleration pattern in which a moving speed at which said
18 work is moved in the direction where the work separates
19 from the mask plate is accelerated up to an upper limit
20 speed and thereafter is decelerated up to a lower limit
21 speed,

22 wherein an initial upper limit speed representing said
23 upper limit speed in start of said plate separating
24 operation is set higher than succeeding upper limit speeds
25 representing the upper limit speeds from the middle of the
26 plate separating operation on.

1 **Claim 2 (Currently amended):** ~~The screen printing~~
2 ~~method according to claim 1,~~ A screen printing method for
3 printing paste on a work via pattern holes formed on a mask
4 plate, comprising:

5 a mask attachment step in which said work is brought
6 into contact with the lower surface of said mask plate;

7 a mask pressure step in which

8 a squeegeeing step in which a squeegee is moved on the
9 mask plate in the mask attachment state thereby to filling
10 paste into said pattern holes; and

11 a plate separating step in which the work is separated
12 from the mask plate stepwise by a plate separating
13 operation of repeating plural times an acceleration and
14 deceleration pattern in which a moving speed at which said
15 work is moved in the direction where the work separates
16 from the mask plate is accelerated up to an upper limit
17 speed and thereafter is decelerated up to a lower limit
18 speed,

19 wherein an initial upper limit speed representing said
20 upper limit speed in start of said plate separating

21 operation is set higher than succeeding upper limit speeds
22 representing the upper limit speeds from the middle of the
23 plate separating operation on,

24 wherein in said plate separating operation, a
25 plurality of said acceleration and deceleration patterns
26 are set so that said succeeding upper limit speed are
27 decelerated gradually.

1 **Claim 3 (Currently amended):** ~~The screen printing~~
2 ~~method according to claim 1,~~ A screen printing method for
3 printing paste on a work via pattern holes formed on a mask
4 plate, comprising:

5 a mask attachment step in which said work is brought
6 into contact with the lower surface of said mask plate;

7 a squeegeeing step in which a squeegee is moved on the
8 mask plate in the mask attachment state thereby to filling
9 paste into said pattern holes; and

10 a plate separating step in which the work is separated
11 from the mask plate stepwise by a plate separating
12 operation of repeating plural times an acceleration and
13 deceleration pattern in which a moving speed at which said
14 work is moved in the direction where the work separates
15 from the mask plate is accelerated up to an upper limit
16 speed and thereafter is decelerated up to a lower limit
17 speed,

18 wherein an initial upper limit speed representing said

19 upper limit speed in start of said plate separating
20 operation is set higher than succeeding upper limit speeds
21 representing the upper limit speeds from the middle of the
22 plate separating operation on,

23 wherein in start of said plate separating operation,
24 a plurality of said acceleration and deceleration patterns
25 are set so that acceleration and deceleration is repeated
26 at the nearly equal initial upper limit speed.

1 **Claim 4 (Original):** The screen printing method
2 according to Claim 1, wherein in the plate separating
3 operation, said work is separated from the mask plate by
4 causing the work to descend.

1 **Claim 5 (Currently amended):** A screen printing method
2 for printing paste on a work via pattern holes formed on
3 ~~the~~ a mask plate, comprising:

4 a mask attachment step in which said work is brought
5 into contact with the lower surface of said mask plate;

6 a mask pressure step in which said work is raised
7 further by a predetermined margin from a normal height
8 position of a lower surface of the mask plate so that said
9 contact between the work and the mask plate is in a state
10 under pressure from below;

11 a squeegeeing step in which a squeegee is moved on the
12 mask plate in the mask attachment state thereby to filling

13 paste into said pattern holes; and
14 a plate separating step in which a plate separating
15 operation of moving said work plate in the direction where
16 the work separates from the mask plate is performed,
17 wherein in start of said plate separating operation,
18 the moving speed is accelerated up to an upper limit speed
19 and thereafter is decelerated up to a lower limit speed.

1 **Claim 6 (Original):** The screen printing method
2 according to Claim 5, wherein in a process where in start
3 of said plate separating operation, the moving speed is
4 accelerated up to the upper limit speed and thereafter is
5 decelerated up to the lower limit speed, acceleration and
6 deceleration are not repeated but deceleration is performed
7 continuously.

1 **Claim 7 (Original):** The screen printing method
2 according to Claim 5, wherein in the plate separating
3 operation, said work is separated from the mask plate by
4 causing the work to descend.